

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 JAKARTA 02764 041223Z  
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 EB-08 INR-07 H-01 /029 W  
-----041235Z 021140 /11

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FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9554

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STADIS//////////

E.O. 11652: NA  
TAGS: EFIN, ID  
SUBJECT: DOMSAT

REF: STATE 038415

1. SUMMARY: INDONESIAN MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS STILL  
PONDERING FURTHER ACTIONS IN DOMSAT CASE INCLUDING APPROACH  
TO U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE. END SUMMARY.

2. IN LONG CONVERSATION WITH MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS EMIL  
SALIM MARCH 3, I REVIEWED DEPARTMENT'S POSITION PREVIOUSLY  
GIVEN TO AMBASSADOR RUSMIN (REFTEL) AND REPEATED READINESS OF  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE TO MEET WITH GOI LAWYERS. I GAVE SALIM  
COPY OF LOCKHEED AGREEMENT WITH JAPAN AND EXPLAINED NEED FOR  
AGREEMENT BEFORE RESULTS OF INVESTIGATION COULD BE SHARED.

3. SALIM SAID HE FELT GOI WOULD WISH TO APPROACH U.S.  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE BUT HAD SEVERAL QUESTIONS. HE FIRST  
NEEDED TO DETERMINE MORE CLEARLY WHETHER INDONESIAN  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE OR ATTORNEY GENERAL WOULD REPRESENT  
INDONESIA. I SUGGESTED DETERMINATION SHOULD BE MADE ON  
BASIS WHICH INDONESIAN AGENCY WOULD CONDUCT INVESTIGATION  
IF SUCH WARRANTED.

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4. HE WANTED TO KNOW TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR U.S. DEPARTMENT  
OF JUSTICE. I SAID I HAD NO INFORMATION BEYOND REQUEST TO  
JUSTICE FROM EXIM. PRESUMABLY JUSTICE WOULD SHARE ITS  
CONCEPT OF INVESTIGATION WITH INDONESIAN REPRESENTATIVE.  
I STRESSED THAT JUSTICE DESIRED WORK WITH CORRESPONDING  
AUTHORITY IN INDONESIA AND THAT INDONESIAN EMBASSY IN

WASHINGTON MIGHT NOT, THEREFORE, BE IN POSITION GET FULL STORY.

5. SALIM WANTED TO KNOW WHETHER CONTACT WITH JUSTICE SHOULD BE NOW OR WHEN INVESTIGATION COMPLETED. I SAID I FELT EARLY CONTACT PROBABLY DESIRABLE. I COULD NOT SAY HOW LONG INVESTIGATION MIGHT TAKE BUT HAD IMPRESSION THAT JUSTICE WOULD BEGIN SOON, AT LEAST ON PRELIMINARY BASIS.

6. SALIM THEN SAID HE WAS PLANNING TO MAKE LOCAL PUBLIC RELEASE OF SYNOPSIS OF LETTERS RECEIVED FROM HUGHES, GT&E, AND U.S. GOVERNMENT (EXIM/PROXMIRE EXCHANGE). HE WAS INCLINED TO ANNOUNCE THAT INDONESIAN EFFORTS TO DATE HAD DISCLOSED NOT BASIS FOR SUSPECTING WRONG DOING ON PART OF ANY INDONESIAN OFFICIAL. EVEN THOUGH U.S. JUSTICE INVESTIGATION MIGHT BE PROCEEDING, SALIM, FOR POLITICAL REASONS, FEELS IT NECESSARY TO MAKE SOME DEFINITIVE STATEMENT. (MARCH 4 MORNING PAPER CARRIED BRIEF PUBLIC STATEMENT BY SALIM THAT, BASED ON INPUT FROM ALL CONCERNED PARTIES, THERE WAS NO TRUTH IN THE BRIBERY ALLEGATION AND THAT THE CASE IS CLOSED.)

7. QUITE APART FROM INVESTIGATION, SALIM STRESSED THAT HE HAD TO DO SOMETHING TO MEET DEMAND OF PARLIAMENTARIANS AND OTHERS FOR SOME KIND OF APOLOGY TO INDONESIA. INDONESIANS HAD BEEN SEEKING TO FIND THOMAS CHEATHAM. HE WAS RECENTLY IN SINGAPORE BUT LEFT FOR TOKYO WITHOUT COMING TO INDONESIA. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS, I TOLD SALIM I COULD NOT SAY WHETHER JUSTICE WOULD SEEK TO QUESTION CHEATHAM AND SUG- LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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GESTED THAT ANY INDONESIAN ACTION AGAINST CHEATHAM HAD BEST BE DISCUSSED WITH THEIR AMERICAN LAWYERS.

8. SALIM MENTIONED CONTACTS INDONESIAN PRESS ATTACHE HAD HAD WITH NEW YORK TIMES. ACCORDING TO PRESS ATTACHEN HERSH HAD SAID HE HAD NO REAL BASIS FOR CHARGES AGAINST INDONESIANS. RUSMIN HAS WRITTEN LETTER TO TIMES ASKING THAT THEY PUT THIS IN WRITING. I TOLD SALIM WE COULD BE OF LITTLE HELP IN RELATIONS WITH NEW YORK TIMES BUT SUGGESTED THAT AMBASSADOR PURSUE SUBJECT WITH SENIOR OFFICIALS OF NEWSPAPER. IT WAS POSSIBLE THAT NEWSPAPER MIGHT BE PREPARED TO ACKNOWLEDGE IN WRITING, AT LEAST THAT THEY HAD NO INTENTION EMBARRASSING INDONESIA.

9. FINALLY, SALIM ASKED WHETHER I THOUGHT THERE WAS NAY BASIS FOR BELIEVING THAT NEW YORK TIMES STORY WAS PART OF PRESS CONSPIRACY AGAINST INDONESIA, POSSIBLY FED BY INDONESIAN OPPONENTS OF PRESIDENT SUHARTO. I SAID I TOTALLY DISCOUNTED CONSPIRATORIAL THEORY. ARTICLE HAD TO BE SEEN IN

CONTEXT OF AMERICAN DOMESTIC CONERN OVER CORPORATE  
ACTIVITIES. INDONESIAN INVOLVEMENT WAS ONLY INCIDENTAL.

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## Message Attributes

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